

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON SOUTH AFRICA, JUNE 17

1. FOLLOWING IS A SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST ON THE
SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF A PLAN FOR AN INDEPENDENT
NAMIBIA:

2. UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 16 - FIVE WESTERN NATIONS INCLUDING
THE UNITED STATES, HAVE REACHED AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE WITH
SOUTH AFRICA ON HOW THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA IS TO ACHIEVE
INDEPENDENCE BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

DIPLOMATS FROM THE FIVE NATIONS MET TODAY WITH U.N. SECRETARY
GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM TO BEGIN THE EQUALLY DIFFICULT TASK OF
SELLING THE DEAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AFRICAN NATIONS AND
THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), THE
LIBERATION MOVEMENT THAT HAS BEEN FIGHTING SOUTH AFRICA FOR
CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY.

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IF THE DEAL PROVES ACCEPTABLE TO THE AFRICANS, IT WOULD BE
A MAJOR TRIUMPH FOR THE NEW AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA.
A PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN NAMIBIA (SOUTHWEST AFRICA) WOULD
DEMONSTRATE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
ARGUMENT THAT IT CAN OFFER A NONVIOLENT PATH TO THE SOLUTION

OF THE RACIAL CRISES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

SOUTH AFRICA HAS RULED THE TERRITORY UNDER A MANDATE FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS THAT WAS REVOKED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. SOUTH AFRICA HAS IGNORED THE U.N. ACTION.

THE DIPLOMATS FROM THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, CANADA, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY, WHO CARRIED OUT THE LATEST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN CAPE TOWN WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER, WERE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC, RECOGNIZING THAT IT MAY PROVE DIFFICULT FOR THE AFRICANS TO ACCEPT THE TERMS SOUTH AFRICA IS OFFERING.

THESE INCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA'S APPOINTMENT OF AN "ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL" TO RUN THE TERRITORY UNTIL INDEPENDENCE. HE WOULD BE A SOUTH AFRICAN JUDGE, EMPOWERED TO SET UP THE ELECTION OF AN ASSEMBLY THAT WOULD DRAW UP A CONSTITUTION.

THE ADMINISTRATOR WOULD REPORT TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT, WHO WOULD HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE AND COULD DEAL WITH SWAPO OFFICIALS.

ONE ISSUE THAT HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED, AND MAY GENERATE OPPOSITION TO THE DEAL FROM SWAPO AND FROM AFRICAN NATIONS, IS SOUTH AFRICA'S INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING ITS TROOPS IN NAMIBIA "SO LONG AS A THREAT EXISTS" TO THE SECURITY OF THE TERRITORY.

SWAPO HAS DEMANDED THAT THE TROOPS PULL OUT, BUT THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED.

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SOUTH AFRICA SEEMED TO HAVE LEFT IN LIMBO PLANS TO ESTABLISH A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF TRIBAL CHIEFS AND WHITE RESIDENTS LOYAL TO THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, WALDHEIM WILL BE ASKED TO NAME A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTION PROCESS ON THE SPOT, BACKED BY A TEAM OF U.N. OBSERVERS.

THE WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAY SOUTH AFRICA PLEDGED TO REPEAL CERTAIN LEGISLATION THAT COULD INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTION PROCESS, SUCH AS RACIAL-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.

THE U.N. REPRESENTATIVE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR WOULD HAVE TO AGREE ON DETAILS OF THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE RETURN OF EXILES.

THE WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO LET INTERNATIONAL JURISTS DECIDE JUST WHO IS

A POLITICAL PRISONER.

SWAPO HAD DEMANDED THAT ALL PRISONERS, INCLUDING THOSE
DEEMED BY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES TO BE CRIMINALS, BE
RELEASED.

"WE HAVE THE PRINCIPLES IN PLACE," SAID ONE OF THE WESTERN
NEGOTIATORS. "THE NEXT STEP IS FOR THE AFRICANS TO AGREE
TO THEM. WE CAN'T WORK OUT ANY MORE OF THE PRACTICAL DE-
TAILS UNTIL THE U.N. TEAM IS APPOINTED." VANCE

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